

“Por que no te callas?”

By Roelf L. Ruffner (2007)

“Por que no te callas?” or “Why don’t you shut up?” was the response given by King Juan Carlos of Spain to President Hugo Chavez, the Communist **thug** dictator of Venezuela at the Latin American Summit held recently. Chavez had criticized a former Prime Minister of Spain calling him a “fascist” during one of his predictable harangues at the Summit. The King knows all about fascism and thuggery. He reigned for several years when the fascist Generalissimo Francisco Franco was dictator of Spain.

Reading of this rebuke I was reminded of how Paul and the Holy Spirit commanded the church to deal with false teachers. *“Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision. Whose mouths must be so stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake”* (Titus 1:9-11). This passage needs to be obeyed today. Our brotherhood is full of “gainsayers” (“those who contradict or oppose” – Vines) who need to be told to “shut up!”

This passage shows some of the **traits** of the false teacher:

“Unruly and vain talkers” - Paul was primarily talking of the boastful Judaizers who thought they were so knowledgeable of the Scriptures and Jewish tradition. False teachers today talk a good line. They may even have a knowledge of the Scriptures, but often misuse and abuse it. For example, they quote “scholars” and other professional **doubters** who seek to justify the unjustifiable – the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship. But all the supposed “scholarship” in the world cannot erase the authority of Scriptures. *“Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”* (Eph. 5:19). False teachers have no use for the authority of the word of God.

“Subvert whole houses” – You can only imagine the havoc caused by Judaizers among the Gentile Christians. *“And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved”* (Acts 15:1). In another passage Paul writes, *“For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts”* (II Tim. 3:6). Today false teachers worm their way into brethren’s affections by teaching **false** doctrine concerning Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage. Denying THE Christ’s edict that divorce (*“putting away”*) can only be because of fornication, with the only the **innocent** party having the Scriptural right to remarry (Matt.19:9); they lead many into adulterous unions that God does not recognize. Others teach that both parties in a marriage must INTEND to be married for it to be a legitimate union in God’s sight. What an ungodly loophole that is!

“Teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake” - Since the time of Balaam men have been tempted to change their allegiance to God for the sake of money (*“filthy lucre”*). It is amazing considering that most false teachers know the truth concerning sound doctrine and CHOOSE to teach or write otherwise. For the sake of an overly generous salary or a lucrative **book deal** with Wal-Mart, men will turn their backs on the truth of God’s word. *“For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple”* (Rom. 16:18).

Paul did not mince words when he commanded how the church is to deal with such men: *“by sound doctrine to exhort and convince”* (v.9); *“whose mouths must be stopped”* (v.11). Just tell them to “shut up!”